



## **Exovedate Councilors of the Métis Provisional Government (1885)**

Darcy John Bouchard. *Li Exöuile* © 12/2012

### ***Synopsis***

Louis "David" Riél MLA, MP, was spiritual and political leader of the Franco-Métis people, although many Anglo-Métis believed in him as well. Gabriel Dumont was *chef Métis* - War Chief of the Métis Provisional Army. But, he was known to many simply as Uncle (*oncle, tonton*). Michel Dumas, secretary of Riél's governing council, was another important personality amongst the Exovedate; he had accompanied Dumont *and the others* into the United States in pursuit of Louis Riél, then living in exile in Montana; and he escaped with Dumont after the Fall of Batoché. Yes! Michel Dumas was a major player, *as well*. As was Charles Nolin MLA, one time friend of Riél but now in opposition to him and Dumont on the issue of the use of arms. Understandably. That Nolin was arrested by the Exovedate is equally reasonable, considering his opposition: Nolin betrayed the Exovedate and later testified against Riél - and is considered a traitor *as they had once been good friends*. Capt. William Boyer was also suspected of disloyalty and arrested by the Exovedate along with Charles Nolin. Napoléon Boyer was arrested at the same time. Albert Monkman was also suspected of disloyalty and arrested

by the Exovedate: Monkman was later arrested and imprisoned for seven years by the Canadian government - he is pictured in the *prisoner's photo*. It must have been difficult for him in prison, being a prisoner of the Crown and ostracized from the other Patriots who were now suspicious of him. It is no wonder that he abandoned his homeland after his release. Although his family had served honourably with Riél in Manitoba in 1869/70, Maxime Lépine *père* MLA, who fought with a crucifix in one hand and a rifle in the other, was opposed to Riél, as well. And Charles Eugene "Old Boss" Boucher, assistant secretary to the Council of the Provisional Government, was another future MLA.

Now then, Métis Chief Charles "Wahpass" Trottier and Dakota/Sioux Chief Wah-pah-ha-ska (White Cap) from Prairie Ronde - *near Saskatoon* - were made honorary Councilors: They brought sixty men and their families with them. Wah-pah-ha-ska<sup>1</sup> spoke no French or English, although Alexis Labombarde, a venerable half-breed, was able to translate for him. Conversely, William Henry Jackson *aka* Honoré Jackson or Jaxon was a White man who sympathized with the Métis and their struggle against the Dominion government in Ottawa. Jackson became personal secretary to Louis Riél when Riél returned to Canada in 1884, and was instrumental in organizing the Métis militia and provisional government: He was later thought insane by Riél and, after the Fall of Batoché, tried for treason-felony but declared insane by the Canadian government of Occupation and sentenced to a lunatic asylum in Lower Fort Garry. Too bad for him because he truly was a prairie visionary.

Capt. Élie Dumont had traveled from Fort à la Corne to participate in the Resistance, but it is not known which fighters were in his *dizaine*; perhaps he inherited Capt. Isidore Dumont's or Capt. Augustin Laframboise's *dizaine* after they died? Isidore Dumas, too was in charge of a *dizaine*, *but he was never called Captain*.

Other notable members of the Exovedate were its chairman Pierre "Pierriche" Parenteau, a trusted friend and political ally of Riél - also in the *prisoner's photo*. Councilor Jean-Baptists Boyer, though, fled to Qu'Appelle after the Battle of Duck Lake. Two councilors who had been elected Captains: Jean-Baptiste Boucher *père* and Jean-Baptiste Vandal, both fathered sizable families - Boucher parenting several Exovede Patriots who *also* resisted the Dominion Invasion. As did Emmanuel Beaugrand *dit* Champagne, a founder of the community; he, too, is pictured in the *prisoner's photo*. His son Bazile Cleophas Beaugrand *dit* Champagne had to be forced to participate, though! Now, Damase Carrière and Donald Daniel Ross were both heroes cruelly treated by the Canadians - their deaths at the hands of the Canadians should be considered war crimes<sup>2</sup> and them as martyrs: both men were dragged by their necks behind horses; Damase had his leg broken by the bastards - them believing he was Riél; and Ross was shot and bayoneted after shooting Canadian Capt. John French, a popular man with his troops. Joseph Delorme, too, should be considered a martyr and his treatment at the hands of the

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<sup>1</sup> Wah-pah-ha-ska's son - name and age unknown - was the only other fatality besides Marcile Gratton which died because of "Gat" Howard and the Gatling gun during the Fall of Batoché. Howard boasted that of the 72 Mécutetis and First Nations killed and 110 wounded, about thirty were marked with his Gatling balls, ranging from 3 to 20 each man. There is no accounting for the women and children or other casualties of "Gat" Howard and "li rababou."

<sup>2</sup> Dumont contended *that* another war crime would be the Canadian's use of exploding shells, which caused cruel and unnecessary injuries on mass casualties.

Canadians a war crime: Joseph was captured by the English at Batoché and severely wounded, being shot through the thigh so that he lost both testicles - he was crippled for the rest of his life. Ambroise Jobin *fils* was also mortally wounded at the Battle of Batoché, having his leg amputated in Saskatoon, and being buried next to the mass grave at Batoché.

Pierre Gariépy and Pierre Henry were both pictured in the *prisoner's photo*, as well. And two of Riel's "Sept Étoiles" ("Seven Stars," referring to the Tourond brothers), served on the Council: principally, David Tourond, who escaped into Montana, and Patrice Tourond, one of Dumont's lieutenants assigned as Riel's bodyguard, especially after the Fall of Batoché.

### ***The Exovedate Council***

**Louis "David" Riél, MLA, MP (41)** - *spiritual and political leader of the Métis people*  
**Dumont, Gabriel (48)** - *chef Métis*

Parenteau, Pierre "Pierriche" (72) - Chairman 16 man Exovedate Council

**Capt. Boucher, Jean-Baptiste père (47)**

Boyer, Jean-Baptists (40) - *member of Philippe Gariépy's dizaine*

Carrière, Damase (34) - *mistaken for Riél, the Canadian's broke his leg and tied a rope around his neck to a saddle, and he was dragged/hanged to death - **war-crime** - **martyr***

Beaugrand *dit* Champagne, Emmanuel (62) - *conditional discharge for Rebellion Activities*

Henry, Pierre (47) - *prisoner's photo - seven years for treason-felony*

Jobin, Ambroise Jr. (34) - *Turtleford Métis - Battleford - died of wounds on May 23rd, in Saskatoon*

Lépine, Maxime père MLA (39) - *his brother Ambroise-Didyme Lépine served Riél as military commander in 1869/70 - sentenced to seven years for treason-felony, however he was released on 16 March 1886 - he was opposed to Riél*

Gariépy, Pierre (59) - *prisoner's photo - 3 year prison sentence for treason-felony*

Monkman, Albert (31) - *imprisoned by Riél for disloyalty - prisoner photo - 7 years imprisonment for Rebellion Activities*

Nolin, Charles, MLA (62) - *he opposed Dumont and Riél when it came to the use of arms - he was made a prisoner*

Ouellette, Moïse Napoléon (45) - *three years imprisonment*

Parenteau, Jean-Baptiste père (53) - *wounded during the Battle of Batoché - fled to Montana*

Ross, Donald Daniel (63) - *after he killed Col. French, he was fatally wounded, then bayoneted and dragged behind a horse - on 12 May 1885 at Batoché - **war-crime** - **martyr***

Ross, John (53) - *in charge of the cattle supplies*

Tourond, David (34) - *escaped treason-felony charges fleeing into Montana*

**Capt. Vandal, (Jean)-Baptiste père** (55) - *appointed one of the guards over the prisoners*

Chief Trottier, Charles "Wahpass" (46) - *there were about 20 men in Trottier's brigade - he escaped to the US after the final battle*

Chief Wah-pah-ha-ska (White Cap) Dakota/Sioux - *with 21 men under duress joined Riél - conversely, it is said that there were about 40 men in Wah-pah-ha-ska 's brigade*

Boucher, ("Old Boss") Charles Eugene, MLA (21) - *assistant secretary to the Council of the Provisional Government - left in charge of François-Xavier's store in Batoché when he fled to Carrot River with his family to avoid the fighting*

Dumas, Michel (36) - One Arrow Reserve farm instructor - *secretary of Riél's governing council*

Jackson, William Henry aka Jaxon, Honoré Joseph (24) - *Riél's secretary - later, considered insane and imprisoned by Riél - convicted of treason-felony and sentenced to an asylum by the Canadians - escaped to the USA...*

Fisher, Alexandre Jr. (44) - *Gabriel Dumont's secretary - disabled the Northcote with Pascal Montour fils*

Chamberland, Charles Adrien (58) - Council headquarters quartermaster

Delorme, Joseph (36) - *lieutenant - principal bodyguard to Louis Riél on the last day - **war-crime - martyr***

Tourond, Patrice (28) - *lieutenant - principal bodyguard to Louis Riél on the last day*

Parenteau, Matthias (18) - *Riél's guide and cart driver*